Two Notable Source-Books*

These volumes present material which is indispensable for the historical study of two of the three basic disciplines which go to the making of the science and art of medicine. The first was designed as a pendant to Professor Long's History of Pathology (1928): the other will subserve the same end with reference to a Primer of the History of Physiology by Professor Fulton, just out (1931). It is obvious that these two disciplines, physiology and pathology, not only supplement each other but also cover material far more interesting, stimulating and informing to the student and the general practitioner than would be the case with a source-book of anatomy. One can fancy the weariful uphill progress of the Sisyphus who would essay the marginal references in the vest-pocket *Historia anatomiae* of Bauhinus (1597), the foot-notes in Sprengel and the multifarious citations available in the actual texts, from Galen to Leonardo, from Vesalius to Gray, Henle and Hyrtl, not to mention original discoveries published in 19th century periodicals. Such a compilation must needs be a stodgy, unreadable affair, if complete, and failing completeness, would be amateurish and valueless. The best of the early history of anatomy, moreover, is in the hand-drawings, as Choulant divined, and for the post-Vesalian texts, apart from the important philologic studies of Hyrtl, one might make a special case of the general equation of Goethe: *Die Geschichte der Anatomie ist die Anatomie selber.* With physiology and pathology, the case is different. We emerge from the dry statics of structure into the dynamics of function and deflected function and here we are best instructed and derive salutary stimulation from the higher reaches of endeavor, passing, Alpine-wise, from peak to peak. From England, incidentally, came two

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**Selected Readings in Pathology from Hippocrates to Virchow.* Edited by Esmond R. Long. XIV (1 l.), 301 pp., 4 l., 25 pl. 8°, Springfield, Ill.; Baltimore, Md., Charles C. Thomas, 1930.

Selected Readings in Physiology. Edited by John Farquhar Fulton, Springfield, Ill., Baltimore, Md., Charles C. Thomas, 1930.

of the most inspiring books on the history of physiology—Sir Michael Foster's Denver lectures (1901) and Stirling's *Some Apostles of Physiology* (1902) and both are virtual source-books of epoch-making discoveries, inventions and experiments. A third source-book, the splendid contribution of Professor Neuburger (1897) tells us just why most of the physiology of the nervous system before the days of Galvani, Nobili and Matteucci had to be scrapped.

Professor Long's volume is, in the nature of things, illustrative, an anthology rather than a source-book, since most protocols of post-mortems, those of Bonetus or Boerhaave for instance, merely peg out additive data rather than epoch-making advances; and it is better to get the quaint literary flavor of Lancisi or Morgagni from such liberal citations as the editor gives than to bewilder the mind with the impossible yet essential alternative, the inclusion of the entire texts of these great contributions. In the history of pathology, as of anatomy, Tennyson's line is still apposite—

"Science moves but slowly, slowly, creeping on from point to point,"

the tempo being that of the sluggish fugue typifying "science" in Richard Strauss's *Zarathustra.* Professor Fulton, on the other hand occupies a terrain on which recent advances have been steady, step-wise and sometimes rapid, almost synchronous, in fact, with pace-making advances in physics and chemistry. With one or two singular exceptions, most of his excerpts are, therefore, basic and authoritative. The high spots in Long's book are Rhazes (small-pox), Saliceto (renal disease), Fernelius (renal calculus), Wepfer (apoplexy), Lancisi (fatal disorders of circulation), John Hunter (inflammation, syphilis), Hodgson (aneurysm), Laennec (phthisis), Bright (nephritis), Louis (typhoid fever), Hodgkin (lymphadenoma), Corrigan (aortic insufficiency), Cruveilhier (phlebitis), Andral (diseases of the blood), Rokitansky (congenital cardiac malformations), Addison (suprarenal disease) and Virchow (embolism, cellular pathology). Regrettable omissions are Paracelsus on gout, calculus and

goitre, the data of Vieussens and Lancisi on valvular disease of the heart, Bontius and Tulp on beri beri, Walter on peritonitis (1785), J. Z. Platner on tuberculous spine (1744), William Hunter on arterio-venous aneurysm (1757-62), Mestivier on appendicitis (1759), Whytt on meningitis (1788), Werlhof on purpura hæmorrhagica (1775), Wollaston on gout and calculus (1797) *et quibusdam aliis,* in lieu of material patently clinical or diagnostic. In Fulton, one misses the physiologic experiments of Vesalius, the remarkable contributions of La Place and Lagrange to the physiology of respiration, the experiments of Walæus and Stannius, Gaskell on the vagus nerve, Langley on the autonomic system, Kölliker on veratrinized muscle and the essential findings of Ludwig and Claude Bernard; while van't Hoff on osmosis and Arrhenius on the nature of solution are rather property of physical chemistry, and Captain Cook on scurvy is a phase of naval hygiene. Beyond this point, it seems ungracious to look such superlative gift-horses in the mouth. The wealth of illustrations and of facsimile reproductions of title-pages and texts gives to both volumes the charm of Stirling's "Apostles" and the later editions of Bayliss's Physiology. Over the page of the dedication of Professor Fulton's book, we read that "men choose art for the business of their lives, and labor at it alone and without pudding or praise, for the sake of these moments which have happened to other artists and may happen to them. And the world with all its indifference to art yet does value these moments and preserves with a religious awe the works in which they occur." Some of these moments of unique achievement have even happened to scientific men and there would be no harm in including more of them in subsequent editions of these volumes.

F. H. Garrison.